



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MAN CONVICTED OF ASSAULTING FEDERAL PROBATION OFFICERS SENTENCED TO 46 MONTHS IN PRISON

TUCSON, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on August 11, 2003, John Noriego, DOB 12/05/54, of the Village of Kaka on the Tohono O'odham Nation, was sentenced to 46 months in federal prison, by United States District Judge Raner. C. Collins, in Tucson, Arizona.

On June 27, 2002, United States Probation Officers Todd Davison, Max Richards and Matthew Lavelle drove to the Village of Kaka on the Tohono O'odham Nation, to contact one of their probationers who was living at the home of John Noriego. When they arrived they noticed several individuals, including their probationer, sitting on the porch drinking beer, which was a violation of the terms and conditions of probation. As the probation officers got out of their car and approached the residence, John Noriego reached into the door of his residence, pulled out an aluminum baseball bat and threatened the probation officers. They indicated they were there to speak with their probationer, Mr. Noriego's girlfriend, at which point Noriego started towards the officers with the bat. The probation officers retreated to their car as Noriego ran after them. The three probation officers reached their car and locked all the doors, just seconds before

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Noriego got to the car. He attempted to open the front passenger door, which was locked, and then swung the bat striking the front passenger door. The probation officers drove away, but not before Noriego struck the vehicle one more time on the rear passenger panel.

John Noriego had entered a plea of guilty to three counts of aggravated assault on a federal officer and criminal damage on May 12, 2003.

Judge Collins sentenced Mr. Noriego to 46 months in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, with 36 months of supervised release to follow. The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The prosecution was handled by Beverly K. Anderson, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1399
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